

## Minnesota Government Update - Week in Review - March 11, 2011

Posted by [John A. Knapp](#) on March 11, 2011

### House and Senate Republicans Release Budget Targets

The House and Senate released similar budget targets on Thursday. At first glance, the GOP Majority holds Health and Human Services and K-12 education harmless. However, taking a closer look at projected spending, the Health and Human Services budget is receiving a \$1.6 billion dollar cut. “We want to improve service through reform and innovation, not just reward good intentions,” Speaker Kurt Zellers (R-Maple Grove) said. “We have the tools to enable government to change how it operates, rebuild public trust, and transform the state for a strong economic future.” The Senate Majority Leader Geoff Michel (R-Edina) commented, “These are appropriate spending levels for 21st century state government.” The DFL Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk (R- Cook) responded, “These targets are a continuation of the failed Pawlenty policies. Property taxes will go up, college tuition will go up and health care will become more expensive.” Bakk also took issue with the spreadsheet claiming “...accuracy and problems with the spreadsheet as this spreadsheet is not a non-partisan fiscal staff prepared document.”

### Edward Burdick

At the age of 89, long time Clerk of the House of Representatives Ed Burdick died. He is fondly remembered as a distinctive man with a booming voice. Rep. Greg Davids (R-Preston) recounted a few stories of Burdick including one where when asked by the House Speaker, “What time is it?” He responded, “What time do you want it to be Mr. Speaker?” Ed Burdick was also a nationally recognized expert on parliamentary procedure and the legislative process. He came to the House as a page in 1941 and retired in 2005, missing only the 1951 session, when he enlisted in military service.